AP US GOVERNMENT

CREDIT HOURS: 0.5  COURSE LENGTH: 1 Semester

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will survey the complex subjects of U.S. Government and politics. Students will analyze in some detail the processes and institutions (both formal and informal) through which the political system functions and policy decisions are made. This analysis will include the Constitutional structure of government, participatory politics, the formal institutions of power, the extra constitutional influences on those institutions, and public policy and individual rights and liberties.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Explain the American system of government and evaluate its strengths and weaknesses

1. Read, understand, and interpret primary source documents and contemporary news analyses related to American government and public policy
2. Analyze and interpret data and other relevant information to US government and politics
3. Write analytical and interpretive essays demonstrating an understanding of the ideals, institutions and processes of the American political system

COURSE PREREQUISITES
US History and teacher recommendation

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK (S) and/or MATERIALS
Title: Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy
Edition: 14th
Authors: George C. Edwards, Martin P. Wattenberg, Robert L. Lineberry
Publisher: Longman
TOPIC OUTLINE

1. Introduction to American Political Culture
2. The Constitution
3. Federalism
4. Civil Liberties
5. Civil Rights
6. Public Opinion
7. Media
8. Political Parties
9. Campaigns and Elections
10. Interest Groups
11. Congress
12. The Presidency
13. The Federal Bureaucracy
14. The Federal Courts
15. Economic Policy
16. Domestic and Social Policy
17. Foreign and Defense Policy
18. Preparing for the Exam
19. The Final Exam